THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) The Central Government had sanctioned Rs. 8.00 crore for creation of sports infrastructure and Rs. 1.50 crore for laying of synthetic surface/track in connection with the holding of 4th National Games in Karnataka.

(i) Main Stadium
(ii) Hockey Stadium
(iii) Velodrome
(iv) Indoor Stadium

(v) Swimming Pool

(vi) Other minor items.

(b) Rs. 30.41 crore was released to the manipur Government for holding of 5th National Games at Imphal by the Central Government.

(c) The present progress report of sport infrastructures for the said games in manipur is as under:

—Finishing stage.
—Nearing completion.
—Casting of track started.
—Gallery Casting half completed.
Roofing to be completed by January, 1998. —Foundation work including piling over
and casting to be completed by Nomvber, 1997. —Nearing completion.

आपरेशन ब्लैकबोर्ड योजना

1177. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी**: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा आपरेशन ब्लैकबोर्ड योजना के अधीन 1717 उच्च प्राथमिक स्कूल खोलने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव भेजा गया था,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि प्रस्ताव की लगात केवल सात करोड़ रु. ही थी, और

(ग) यदि हां तो केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य को यह राशि कब तक उपलब्ध करायेगी और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेस सरकार से विस्तारित आपरेशन ब्लैकबोर्ड योजना के अन्तर्गत 1770 उच्च प्राथमिक स्कूलों में लगभग 7.00 करोड़ रु. की लागत के शिक्षण अध्ययन उपस्कर प्रदान कराने का एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है।

(ग) निधियों का जारी करना राज्य स्तरीय अधिकार प्राप्त समिति द्वारा प्रस्ताव पर विचार विमर्श एंव अनुमोदन पर निर्भर करता है। राज्य सरकार से राज्य स्तरीय अधिकार प्राप्त समिति की बैठक का आयोजन करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

Import of Gas

1178. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import gas from Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) GAIL has signed a "Principles of Agreement" with Brown & Root International Inc., USA during March, 1996. The objective of the agreement is to examine techno-economics of having a gas pipeline from Myanmar and other countries in the region to carry gas to India. As per the agreement M/s Brown & Root International Inc., USA would be responsible to secure the gas volumes from the resource owners in Myanmar and other countries in the region and

deliver the above quantity of gas. the scope of the agreement also includes Bangladesh.

Wells drilled in Tripura

1179. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wells drilled in Tripura have the best success ratio of gas production in the country;

(b) if so, the steps by Government to explore and drill wells in Tripura; and

(c) whether oil has also been discovered in Tripura, besides gas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Presently, one seismic party and three drilling rigs of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are in op eration in Western Tripura.

Under the Seventh Round Exploration Bidding, block AA-ON/3, falling in Tripura has been awarded by Government of India to M/s. Okland Oil Company, USA and M/s Rexwood Corporation, USA.

A Memorandum of Undertanding has been signed by ONGC with M/s. UNOC-AL International Corporation, USA for joint study to investigate the commerical exploitation of established reserves and to determine the potential for new reserves in Tripura.

(c) So far no oil reserves have been discovered in Tripura.

Development of Infrastructure for IOC

1180. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government needs to develop infrastructure for the Indian Oil Corporation on a large scale:

(b) if so, the details of the plans, including the sources of finances;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IOC is planning to build a huge refinery at Panipat (Haryana); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marketing permission to Foreign Companies

1181. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit foreign petroleum companies to operate in the . marketing segment;

(b) if so, the details there of; and

(c) the names of the foreign companies who have shown interest for investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. In line with the liberalised economic policy of the Govt., private' parties including national/multinationals were allowed to import and market some petroleum products like LPG, kerosene, LSHS and CBFS, lubricants at market determined prices.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Companies have formed joint venture companies for the development of various infrastructure facilitities for the import, storage, bottling and marketing of LPG and other petroleum products. The details of these Joint Venture Companies are as under:

(i) Indian Oil taking Ltd. : To provide infrastructure for storage of petroleum products in the country, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., and